



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON DC 20460

NOV 28 1984

Dave
Joyce -
Per your request.
Paula
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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Problems with Some Samples Sent to CLP Laboratories

FROM: Joan Fisk, Project Officer *Joan Fisk*
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TO: All Regional RSCC's

Two problems have recurrently been brought to our attention by both Sample Management Office (SMO) and several Contract Laboratories.

The first involves dioxin rinsate samples. According to the IFB (page A-2, Section 2.3, page D-2, Section 3.3, page E-3, Section 4.2, and page E-4, Section 4.2.3) batches of samples may include one or more equipment rinsates. On page E-3, Section 4.2, it recommends trichloroethylene. Many samplers are rinsing with acetone, which being miscible with water, provides a useless rinsate when samples are wet. Please advise your sampling teams to use trichloroethylene for all rinsate samples in the future.

The other problem deals with blanks for soil samples. Many samplers are providing water blanks or empty bottles to be filled by the lab, both of which are inappropriate for soil blank analysis since the soil procedures are not amenable to analyses of either 30 or 3 g (low and medium level respectively) of water. Please do not continue to request blank analysis of water for soil samples.

The Quality Assurance Division of EMSL-Las Vegas is currently investigating a variety of matrices for suitability as soil blanks. As soon as this study is completed and sufficient material is available it will be distributed to all Regions for incorporation into the dioxin analysis program.

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